REMARKS

Applicants and Applicants' attorney express appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the recent interview held on August 7, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance for the above-identified application are now respectfully requested. Claims 47-64 are pending, with claims 47, 54, 56, 57, and 61 having been amended, of which claim 47 is an independent system claim, and claims 54, 56, 57, and 61 are independent method claims.

Applicants' invention relates to systems and methods for displaying and receiving data through user-defined custom forms. For example, with reference to independent system claim 47, a user-defined custom form has a plurality of fields, each of which represents a form component having (i) an associated description that indicates characteristics of the field for use in displaying the field and in using the field to obtain and present data, and (ii) a standard behavior indicating standard operations that are associated with the field. The system includes means for storing a form data structure that includes the data description, as opposed to a program instruction description, of the form fields, including field placement. The form data structure also includes a form control procedure customized to control behavior of the form in terms of operations associated with the form. A transaction event processor for the system includes means for selecting a form, retrieving the corresponding form data structure, receiving input from a user, invoking the form control procedure that performs a custom behavior indicating user-defined operations associated with the fields of the form, and for performing the standard behavior for the fields of the form when the custom behavior is not performed. The system also includes means for packing the user input into a user-input data structure and means for presenting user input from the user-input data structure to a user in accordance with a form data structure for displaying the user input.

Note that each of the independent claims has been amended to more explicitly recite that the form data structure includes a data description, as opposed to a program instruction description, of the fields of the form. The data description includes field placement. Applicants note for the record that the amended language has been added simply to make this limitation more explicit, and therefore does not narrow the scope of the previously presented independent claims or evince an intent to surrender any subject matter.

The Office Action rejected independent claims 47, 54, 56, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,119,476 to Texier ("*Texier*") in view of

"Perform Pro expands simple WYSIWYG form design, filing" ("*Perform Pro*"),[1] and rejected independent claim 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Texier* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,119,476 to McCaskill ("*McCaskill*"). Each of the remaining claims was rejected as obvious in view of *Texier*, *McCaskill*, and/or U.S. Patent No. 5,404,294 to Karnik ("*Karnik*").[2]

Texier discloses the use of programming instructions to generate windows to be displayed on a computer screen. Col. 2, ll. 61-68. For example, *Texier* consistently refers to programming in LISP and other programming languages. *See, e.g.,* col. 3, l. 64 – col. 4, l. 7 (note reference to LISP and PROLOG; col. 4, ll. 36-39 & 50-58 (note reference to LISP and Le-Lisp); col. 5, ll. 5-15 & 55-64 (note reference to LISP, C, and assembly); and col. 7, l. 66 – col. 8, l. 4 (note reference to defining and compiling editors). Among other things, however, *Texier* fails to teach, suggest, or motivate a data description, as opposed to a program instruction description, of the fields of the form, including placement information. Rather, as indicated above, *Texier* discloses using a set of specific, complementary instructions to a programming language of which the programmed interface is loaded into a data or computer system. Col. 2, ll. 61-66.

Perform Pro is a high-level product review for a form designer. *Perform Pro* discloses a toolbox and various menus for designing forms, but does not include any details regarding the technology used to describe the fields of a form. Accordingly, among other things, *Perform Pro* fails to teach, suggest, or motivate a data description, as opposed to a program instruction description, for the fields of a form, including placement information.

McCaskill discloses a method for controlling the editing order of cells in a spreadsheet by evaluating a next cell attribute of a current cell. Figure 4. The next cell attribute of a cell simply indicates which cell should be edited next when a next cell key is pressed by the operator, in contrast to using a cursor motion key to indicate that the next cell to edit is in one or four

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[1] Applicants note for the record that *Perform Pro* qualifies as a prior art reference, if at all, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Applicants, therefore, reserve the right to remove *Perform Pro*, by swearing behind the reference, should removing *Perform Pro* become desirable or necessary in the future. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments in this response are made simply assuming *arguendo* that *Perform Pro* represents a prior art reference, and should not be interpreted as acquiescing the reference's status as prior art, which as indicated may be challenged in the future.

[2] Applicants note for the record that *Texier*, *McCaskill*, and *Karnik* qualify as prior art references, if at all, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicants, therefore, reserve the right to remove *Texier*, *McCaskill*, and/or *Karnik*, by swearing behind these references, should removing *Texier*, *McCaskill*, and/or *Karnik* become desirable or necessary in the future. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments in this response are made simply assuming *arguendo* that *Texier*, *McCaskill*, and *Karnik* represent prior art references, and should not be interpreted as acquiescing each reference's status as prior art, which as indicated may be challenged in the future.
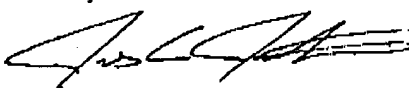
directions relative to the current cell. Col. 3, l. 64 – col. 4, l. 1. Among other things, however, *McCaskill* fails to teach, suggest, or motivate a data description, as opposed to a program instruction description, for the fields of a form, including placement information.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, *Texier, Perform Pro*, and *McCaskill* fail to anticipate or make obvious Applicants' invention, as claimed for example, in independent system claim 47 or independent method claims 54, 56, 57, and 61. As indicated above, among other things *Texier, Perform Pro*, and *McCaskill* fail to teach, suggest, or motivate a data description, as opposed to a program instruction description, for the fields of a form, including placement information. The Interview Summary reflects as much by indicating that the proposed amendment appears to overcome the primary reference (*Texier*) subject to the examiner receiving the formal response and updating the search.

Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that each of the pending independent claims (47, 54, 56, 57, and 61) is patentable over the cited prior art and request prompt allowance of all pending claims (47-64). Based on the foregoing, any remaining assertions or rejections of record for the independent and dependent claims are moot.[3] In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 2nd day of September 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

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[3]Applicants, however, reserve the right to challenge those assertions in the future if needed or desired.